

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /094 W
-----118854 140056Z /15

R 130915Z APR 78
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2739
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0209

FROM US REP MBFR

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: PRESS HANDLING OF POSSIBLE LINK BETWEEN
ER/RB AND MBFR

REF: A. STATE 90878# DTG 080234Z APR 78
B. WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING ON NEUTRON WEAPON DECISION IN
APRIL 8 WIRELESS FILE
C. USNATO 3658, DTG 101756Z APR 78

1. DELEGATION WOULD APPRECIATE TIMELY WASHINGTON GUIDANCE
ON THE HANDLING OF VIRTUALLY CERTAIN PRESS QUERIES
CONCERNING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT
DECISION ON THE ER/RB WARHEAD AND THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS.
THE WESTERN END-OF-ROUND PRESS CONFERENCE, WITH NETHERLANDS
REP (DE VOS) AS THE WESTERN SPOKESMAN, WILL BE HELD ON
APRIL 19. GIVEN DE VOS' SENIOR POSITION AND THE IMPORTANT
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SIGNIFICANCE OF THE END-OF-ROUND PRESS CONFERENCE,
QUERIES CONCERNING THIS ISSUE CANNOT CREDIBLY BE
AVOIDED. OPERATIONALLY, THE PRESS LINE TO BE TAKEN
WILL BE APPROVED BY THE AD HOC GROUP IN ITS APRIL 17
SESSION.

2. DRAWING ON REFS, ESPECIALLY PARAS 3 TO 5 OF

REFTEL A, THE DELEGATION HAS DEVELOPED THE FOLLOWING
CONTINGENCY QUESTION AND ANSWER TO ILLUSTRATE OUR
RECOMMENDED APPROACH:

BEGIN TEXT: POSSIBLE QUESTION: IS IT NOT TRUE THAT THE VIENNA
NEGOTIATIONS ARE A LOGICAL PLACE FOR THE SOVIET UNION
TO DISPLAY THE RESTRAINT IN MILITARY ACTIVITIES
PRESIDENT CARTER INDICATED HE WOULD BE TAKING INTO
ACCOUNT IN MAKING AN ULTIMATE DECISION ON THE NEUTRON
WEAPON? HAS THE WEST EITHER DIRECTLY OR IMPLICITLY
INTRODUCED THIS WEAPON INTO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS?
SUGGESTED RESPONSE: A. THE WEST HAS NOT INTRODUCED THE ENHANCED
RADIATION REDUCED BLAST WARHEAD INTO THESE NEGOTIATIONS.
B. IN ANNOUNCING HIS DECISION, PRESIDENT CARTER SAID
THAT HIS ULTIMATE DECISION QUOTE WILL BE INFLUENCED BY
THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE SOVIET UNION SHOWS RESTRAINT IN
ITS CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR ARMS PROGRAMS AND FORCE
DEPLOYMENTS AFFECTING THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED
STATES AND WESTERN EUROPE. UNQUOTE.
C. AS THE VIENNA TALKS ADDRESS MANY OF THESE ISSUES,
ONE OF SEVERAL POSSIBLE AREAS IN WHICH THE SOVIET
UNION COULD DEMONSTRATE SUCH RESTRAINT IS THROUGH ITS
APPROACH TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS. END TEXT.

3. WE WOULD NOT GO BEYOND THIS POSITION. WE WOULD
INTEND TO MEET ANY ATTEMPT TO BUILD A DIRECT LINKAGE
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BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION AND THESE NEGOTIATIONS
AS BEING AN EXERCISE IN PURE SPECULATION ABOUT WHICH
WE CANNOT COMMENT. RESOR

NOTE BY OC/T: (#)REFERENCE AS RECEIVED.

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NNN

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